AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 Canceled.

15. (New) A converter circuit for a plurality of phases (R, Y, B), having a first switching group system which is provided for each phase (R, Y, B), and having a further or n further switching group systems, where n > 1, which are provided for each phase (R, Y, B),

wherein each switching group system has a first main switching group which is formed by a power semiconductor switch and by a separate capacitor which is connected to the power semiconductor switch, with the power semiconductor switch in the first main switching group being formed exclusively by a passive electronic component which cannot be driven and has a unidirectional current-flow direction, and each switching group system has at least one intermediate switching group, which is formed by two series-connected power semiconductor switches which can be driven and by a separate capacitor, with the intermediate switching group or one of the intermediate switching groups being connected to the first main switching group,

and each switching group system has a second main switching group which is formed by a power semiconductor switch, with the power semiconductor switch in the second main switching group being formed exclusively by a passive electronic

component which cannot be driven and has a unidirectional current-flow direction, and an intermediate switching group is connected to the second main switching group,

wherein

in case of the further or each of the n further switching group system or systems, the intermediate switching group which is adjacent to the first main switching group is connected in series with the first main switching group, and the intermediate switching group which is adjacent to the second main switching group is connected in series with the second main switching group,

wherein the first main switching group in the first switching group system and the first main switching groups in the further or n further switching group system or systems are connected to one another in series,

wherein the second main switching group in the first switching group system and the second main switching groups in the further or the n further switching group system or systems are connected to one another in series,

wherein, if there are a plurality of phases (R, Y, B), the further switching group systems or the n-th further switching group systems in the phases are connected to one another in parallel,

wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, and in the case of the further or in the case of each of the n further switching group systems, one of the power semiconductor switches which can be driven in each intermediate switching group is connected to the capacitor in the same intermediate switching group,

wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, the intermediate switching group which is adjacent to the first main switching group is connected in parallel with the first main switching group, and

wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, the intermediate switching group which is adjacent to the second main switching group is connected in parallel with the second main switching group.

16. (New) A converter circuit for a plurality of phases (R, Y, B), having a first switching group system which is provided for each phase (R, Y, B), and having a further or n further switching group systems, where n > 1, which are provided for each phase (R, Y, B),

wherein each switching group system has a first main switching group which is formed by a power semiconductor switch and by a separate capacitor which is connected to the power semiconductor switch, with the power semiconductor switch in the first main switching group being formed exclusively by a passive electronic component which cannot be driven and has a unidirectional current-flow direction, which switching group system in each case has at least one intermediate switching group, which is formed by two series-connected power semiconductor switches which can be driven and by a separate capacitor, with the intermediate switching group or one of the intermediate switching groups being connected to the first main switching group,

and each switching group system has a second main switching group which is formed by a power semiconductor switch, with the power semiconductor switch in the second main switching group being formed exclusively by a passive electronic

component which cannot be driven and has a unidirectional current-flow direction, and the or an intermediate switching group is connected to the second main switching group,

wherein

in case of the further or each of the n further switching group system or systems, the intermediate switching group which is adjacent to the first main switching group is connected in series with the first main switching group, and the intermediate switching group which is adjacent to the second main switching group is connected in series with the second main switching group,

wherein the first main switching group in the first switching group system and the first main switching groups in the further or n further switching group system or systems are connected to one another in series,

wherein the second main switching group in the first switching group system and the second main switching groups in the further or the n further switching group system or systems are connected to one another in series,

wherein, if there are a plurality of phases (R, Y, B), the further switching group systems or the n-th further switching group systems in the phases (R, Y, B) are connected to one another in parallel,

wherein, in the case of the first switching group system and in the case of each of the n further switching group systems, the power semiconductor switch in the first main switching group has a further passive electronic component which cannot be driven and has a unidirectional current-flow direction, with the further electronic component being connected in series with the existing electronic component,

wherein, in the case of the first switching group system and in the case of each of the n further switching group systems, the power semiconductor switch in the second main switching group has a further passive electronic component which cannot be driven and has a unidirectional current-flow direction, with the further electronic component being connected in series with the existing electronic component,

wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, the junction point between the two power semiconductor switches which can be driven in each intermediate switching group is connected to the capacitor in the same intermediate switching group,

wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, the intermediate switching group which is adjacent to the first main switching group and has one of the two power semiconductor switches which can be driven is connected to the junction point between the two electronic components in the first main switching group, and

wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, the intermediate switching group which is adjacent to the second main switching group and has the other of the two power semiconductor switches which can be driven is connected to the junction point between the two electronic components in the second main switching group.

17. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 15, wherein, in the first switching group system, and in the case of the further or in the case of each of the n further switching group system or systems, the power semiconductor switch in the first main switching group has a further passive electronic component which cannot be driven and has a unidirectional current-flow direction, with the further electronic component being connected in series with the existing electronic component, and

wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, and in the case of the further or in the case of each of the n further switching group system or systems, the power semiconductor switch in the second main switching group has a further passive electronic component which cannot be driven and has a unidirectional current-flow direction, with the further electronic component being connected in series with the existing electronic component.

18. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 15, wherein the electronic component is a diode.

19. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 15, wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in a chain.

20. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 15, wherein the number of intermediate switching groups in each switching group system of the further or of the n further switching group system or systems corresponds to the number of intermediate switching groups in the first switching group system, and wherein, in the case of the further or in the case of each of the n further switching group system or systems if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in series.

21. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 20, wherein each intermediate switching group in the first further switching group system is connected in series with in each case one intermediate switching group in the first switching group system.

22. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 21, wherein, if $n \geq 2$, each intermediate switching group in the n-th further switching group system is connected in series to in each case one intermediate switching group in the (n-1)-th switching group system.

23. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 16, wherein the electronic component is a diode.

24. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 17, wherein the electronic component is a diode.

25. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 16, wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in a chain.

26. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 17, wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are

provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in a chain.

27. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 18, wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in a chain.

28. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 16, wherein the number of intermediate switching groups in each switching group system of the further or of the n further switching group system or systems corresponds to the number of intermediate switching groups in the first switching group system, and wherein, in the case of the further or in the case of each of the n further switching group system or systems if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in series.

29. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 17, wherein the number of intermediate switching groups in each switching group system of the further or of the n further switching group system or systems corresponds to the number of intermediate switching groups in the first switching group system, and wherein, in the case of the further or in the case of each of the n further switching group system or systems if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in series.

30. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 18, wherein the number of intermediate switching groups in each switching group system of the further or of the n further switching group system or systems corresponds to the number of intermediate switching groups in the first switching group system, and wherein, in the case of the further or in the case of each of the n further switching group system or systems if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in series.

31. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 19, wherein the number of intermediate switching groups in each switching group system of the further or of the n further switching group system or systems corresponds to the number of intermediate switching groups in the first switching group system, and wherein, in the case of the further or in the case of each of the n further switching group system or systems if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in series.

32. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 24, wherein, in the case of the first switching group system, if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in a chain.

33. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 32, wherein the number of intermediate switching groups in each switching group system of the further or of the n further switching group system or systems corresponds to the number of

intermediate switching groups in the first switching group system, and wherein, in the case of the further or in the case of each of the n further switching group system or systems if a plurality of intermediate switching groups are provided, respectively adjacent intermediate switching groups are connected to one another in series.

34. (New) The converter circuit as claimed in claim 33, wherein each intermediate switching group in the first further switching group system is connected in series with in each case one intermediate switching group in the first switching group system.